

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

FCC Chairman Powell incorrectly argues that a diversity of media choices is equal to a diversity of media perspectives. Consumers may have 50 or 60 TV channels as opposed to just 3 or 4, so therefore that must be better.

However, one should pause at what's on those channels: a handful of media companies owns all of them, and those 50 or 60 channels present just a handful of genres where each of the companies apes the content of one another.

Moreover, the perspective on diversity of voices is pitiful. I for one would like to hear a regular progressive political perspective, which would be refreshing amid the clamor of war, war, war. I'm hard pressed to find even one occasional one on television. Ownership is crucial in diversity of views since the trend in media for the past two decades has been one of shrinkage: fewer and fewer owners command more and more of the media landscape with corresponding less and less diversity of *perspectives* even though there has been a greater amount of media volume produced.

And since ownership is crucial, I support measures to protect or expand diversity of media ownership, and I oppose the loosening of rules that would reduce this diversity.